

was presented to us about two meetings ago was that of all the incoming freshman, all the matriculating freshman in the university system, at the end of the...of the sophomore year, a third of those students have failed. In other words, a third of the students that enter the University of Nebraska system are no longer in the system after the second year. And that was amazing to me that this could happen. I didn't think that...that it could be quite that severe. I think that this type of evaluation system has got to be done, I think, to...to help us alleviate some of those problems. So I would certainly support this legislation and hope that you will, too. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABBODD: Madam President, colleagues, you know it's interesting that Senator Moore raised the issue of money when it comes to establishing what should be the goal of the educational system in our state. The amount of money is relatively small if you compare the amount that we spend as a state on educational systems, and I'm...I'm going to be supporting this bill in hopes that...that something will good...something good will come out of this commission. We have had tremendously long debates on what should be the role of education in our state, how school boards should be educating our children in our schools, and instead of really focusing in on the best approach on educating our children, most of the debate focuses in on the amount of money that we spend to educate our children. A number of years ago, we passed a bill, LB 1059, and it probably would have been wiser at that time to first analyze what should be the goals of education, rather than simply putting in millions of dollars into our educational system throughout the state. I don't know what's going to become of the commission and I don't think even the supporters of the bill, proponents and sponsors of the bill, can really attest today that this commission will be a success. But it's my hope that maybe we'll get one or two good ideas out of the commission that will be enacted into law and will help to educate our students throughout the state. I'm always leery when we get into commissions, but I think the groups that have been selected to...to serve on that commission offer a broad array and will provide a great deal of input and hopefully maybe some restructuring, and our educational system will come about. I don't think anyone can argue that the educational system we have in our state is good, but there is always a number of ways to improve it. And the focus of the commission being looking at